

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**PUBLIC NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF DRAFT AIR QUALITY
OPERATING PERMIT
PO#ARM5018-101**

1. On February 16, 2006 the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) received a renewal application for an air quality operating permit from Columbia Falls Aluminum Company. LLC (CFAC). The application was given number OP2655-02. The permittee's address is 2000 Aluminum Drive, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. The facility location is in the NE¼ and the SE¼ of Section 3, Township 30 North, Range 20 West, Flathead County, Montana.
2. The draft operating permit required by ARM Title 17, Chapter 8, Subchapter 12, Operating Permit Program will be issued to the applicant on January 23, 2008.
3. The operating permit will allow for the operation of the aluminum processing facility which includes the following processes: Five Vertical Stud Soderberg potlines.
4. Any member of the public desiring to comment must submit their comments to the Department at the Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division, Attn. Air Quality Permitting Supervisor, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901. Comments may address the draft permit or information submitted by the applicant. In order to be considered, the comments must be received within the 30-day public comment period which is from January 23, 2008 to February 22, 2008. Copies of the application and the draft operating permit may be inspected at the Department's office in Helena. Contact the permit writer, Julie Merkel at (406) 444-3626, or the Department Branch Office nearest the source, with specific questions relating to this draft operating permit.
5. Any member of the public desiring to request a public hearing must submit a written request to the Department at the above address. The request must be received within the 30-day public comment period.
6. The Department intends to issue the proposed operating permit after the comment period has expired and after any public hearing which might occur. A copy of the proposed operating permit may be obtained at the above address. After the 45-day EPA review period, the Department intends to issue a decision on the operating permit. The permit does not become final and effective until 30 days after the decision is issued by the Department. A copy of the final operating permit may be obtained at the above address.
7. Any person jointly or severally adversely affected by the Department decision may request a hearing appealing the operating permit before the Montana Board of Environmental Review. Any appeal must be filed within 30 days after the Department issues the decision. The request for a hearing shall contain an affidavit setting forth the grounds for the request and shall be submitted in triplicate to: Chairman, Board of Environmental Review, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620. Any hearing will be held under the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedures Act.
